

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
TORRANCE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:04 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13, 2007, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Co-Chairperson Ning led the meeting.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Cook, Gilbert, Hazell, McGee, Numark, Orpe, Taniguchi, and Co-Chairperson Ning.

Absent: Commissioners Robbins and Smoot.

Also Present: Recreation Services Manager Jones, Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso, Park Services Manager Wilson, and Senior Business Manager Minter.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Orpe moved to grant excused absences to Commissioners Robbins and Smoot for the June 13, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Taniguchi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gilbert moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2007**

Commissioner Gilbert noted the following correction to the May 9, 2007 meeting minutes:

Page 3, 9D: "Commissioner Orpe reported that the Grants Committee met on May 9, 2007..."

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cook moved for the approval of the May 9, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes as corrected. Commissioner Taniguchi

seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Robbins and Smoot).

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #1**

None.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**7A. APPROVAL OF THE 2006 FINANCIAL AND NARRATIVE STATEMENTS FOR THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION GRANT PROGRAM**

Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso provided background on the material of record and reported that on May 9, 2007 the Grants Committee reviewed the financial and narrative statements provided by each of the 2006 Grant Program recipients. He stated that the Grants Committee unanimously recommended that the item be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval before going to City Council for final approval.

Commissioner McGee stated that he serves on the Torrance-South Bay YMCA Board of Managers and asked to abstain from the vote.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hazell moved to recommend that the Commission approve the Financial and Narrative Statements for the 2006 Grant Program for Non-Profit Social Service Agencies and forward the recommendation to City Council for final approval. Commissioner Orpe seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Robbins and Smoot, and with Commissioner McGee abstaining).

**7B. JULY IS PARKS & RECREATION MONTH PROCLAMATION**

Recreation Services Manager Jones introduced the item and requested that the Commission recommend that City Council adopt the Proclamation at its July 26, 2007 meeting.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Taniguchi moved to approve as submitted the draft of the 2007 Proclamation to celebrate July as Parks and Recreation Month and to forward it to City Council for adoption. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Robbins and Smoot).

**7C. ELECTIONS**

Recreation Services Manager Jones suggested that the Commission follow past practice and consider nominating for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson those Commissioners who have the most seniority; a group consensus reflected agreement.

Commissioners McGee and Orpe deferred and requested that the next person in line be considered.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McGee moved to nominate Commissioner Smoot, if she is willing to accept the nomination, for Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission beginning July 2007. Commissioner Hazell seconded the motion.

Recreation Services Manager Jones suggested that if Commissioner Smoot is unwilling to accept the nomination that the Vice-Chairperson would become Chairperson.

Commissioners Ning and Hazell deferred and Commissioner Taniguchi willingly accepted the nomination for Vice-Chairperson.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gilbert moved to elect Commissioner Smoot as Chairperson and Commissioner Taniguchi as Vice-Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission beginning July 2007. Commissioner Hazell seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Robbins and Smoot).

#### **7D. STATUS OF FOOT HOCKEY PROGRAM**

Recreation Services Manager Jones reported that staff and representatives from the National Hockey League are discussing the feasibility of implementing a foot hockey program at the Wilson Park Roller Hockey rink.

#### **7E. USAGE POLICY FOR RENTAL OF THE BENSTEAD PLUNGE**

Senior Business Manager Minter reported that on May 22, 2007 Mayor Scotto recommended that staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission formulate a usage policy for the Benstead Plunge. He stated that it was staff's recommendation to refer the development of this policy to the Programs Committee, consisting of Commissioners Cook, Ning, and Numark, before bringing it back for the Commission's approval and presenting it to City Council for adoption. He noted that there was supplemental material that was received after agenda packets were prepared. He suggested that the Programs Committee meet within 30 days to begin discussions on the item and to develop a public hearing to take input from concerned groups.

In response to Commissioner McGee's inquiry regarding a timeline, Senior Business Manager Minter advised that Mayor Scotto indicated that three to six months would be acceptable.

Recreation Services Manager Jones explained that there was a greater amount of requests for pool usage than there is time available and that City Council requested that the Commission delineate and define a usage policy that is fair and equitable to the citizens of Torrance.

He requested that the Commission decide if the Commission as a whole should develop a usage policy or whether it should be deferred to the Programs Committee. Commissioners requested to hear comments from the public before deciding.

Mary Fricke, Marjorie Avenue, suggested that the Commission or Committee meet with swim coaches to determine what times would be beneficial to the youth that live in Torrance and attend Torrance schools. She stated that one swim team has

monopolized usage of the pool for many years, that no other team has had the ability to use the pool, and requested that opportunity be given to other teams in the area.

In response to her inquiry, Recreation Services Manager Jones stated that the current policy for pool usage is "first come, first serve."

Jim Matsui, Wilma Street, stated that Torrance high schools should have first priority, that the Plunge is the best facility for long-course training, and that Swim Torrance has usage during prime times. He suggested that a more equitable policy would be to open it up to other swim and water polo clubs.

Responding to his inquiry about how an agreement could be terminated, Recreation Services Manager Jones stated that the typical process would be to terminate the current agreement if Swim Torrance broke the contractual agreement, noting that until directed by City Council staff would follow protocols that are in place.

Kelly Perrotta, Maple Avenue, El Segundo, stated that Swim Torrance should share pool usage with other teams, noting that they have access to other pools. She suggested that Swim Torrance use the Plunge for long-course training and use an alternate pool for short-course training.

In response to Commissioner Hazell's inquiry, Recreation Services Manager Jones advised that typically rental agreements are for one year, from January to December.

Gregory Robinett, 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan Beach, representing Palos Verdes Aquatic Club (PVAC), stated that its members were the backbone of SPPY, that it was important that they have more time slots during weekdays and weekends, and that they want to come back to Torrance.

Shari Twidwell, Agate Street, Redondo Beach, coach for Zenith Aquatic Program (ZAP), recommended that a usage policy be developed by the Programs Committee to expedite the process.

Candice Matsui, Wilma Street, discussed the problem of crowded conditions when several Torrance high school teams are swimming at the same time and suggested that their usage be scattered. She provided clarification that swim season is February to May, and noted that water polo teams were also seeking usage of the pool.

Betty Bennett, Norton Street, stated that more time was needed for high school swimmers.

Commissioner Numark requested that staff provide the following information: 1) the implications of cutting short the existing contract with Swim Torrance, 2) identify specific requests for time from other swim organizations, and 3) what priority currently exists for Torrance residents or Torrance-based programs.

Commissioner Cook requested information regarding the amount of time there is available to split up.

Commissioner Hazell suggested that the usage policy be generic and comprehensive enough to go towards other City facilities that have the potential to have similar usage issues.

Co-Chairperson Ning requested information on the “first come, first serve” policy and how word is getting out.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McGee moved for the Programs Committee to develop a usage policy for the Victor E. Benstead Plunge as expeditiously as possible. Commissioner Orpe seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissions Robbins and Smoot).

**8. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**8A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

Has not met.

**8B. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Gilbert reported that the Open Space Committee met on June 13, 2007 to discuss the July 11, 2007 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Banquet. She stated that the theme would be “Fifties,” that there would be a jukebox, that CitiCable would be taping it, and that former awardees were being invited.

She reported that the Open Space Committee also discussed the feasibility of having a dog park in the City and that they were considering holding a public hearing.

**8C. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Has not met.

**8D. GRANTS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Orpe reported that Grants Committee members would begin monitoring agencies that received grants.

**9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY**

**9A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**

Senior Business Manager Minter reported that registration in May for summer classes was very busy.

A brief discussion centered on pool rental fees, and it was noted that Torrance high schools are not charged for pool usage.

**9B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION**

Park Services Manager Wilson noted that the May 2007 Park Services Division Report was included in the material of record.

Responding to Commissioner Numark's inquiry, he advised that a resident would need a permit to cut down a tree in the grassy area near the street and that, although there is not a City-designated arborist, the Streetscape Division of Public Works has several certified arborists.

**9C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION**

Recreation Services Manager Jones announced the June 23, 2007 summer kick-off at Wilson Park with keynote speaker Henry Bibby.

**10. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2**

**10A.** Commissioner McGee stated that he enjoyed "Rumors" at the Nakano Theatre.

**10B.** Co-Chairperson Ning stated that he and his family enjoyed the Armed Forces Day Parade and noted that the Dashew Center event to honor Congresswoman Jane Harmon has been changed to November 2007.

**10C.** Commissioner Orpe stated that he attended the Torrance Symphony fundraiser as well as the memorial service for Corporal Joseph Anzack, Jr.

**10D.** Commissioner Gilbert stated that she also enjoyed "Rumors" and announced the Cultural Arts Center Foundation's Gala on June 29, 2007.

**10E.** Commissioner Numark announced that June is Torrance Saves Lives month with a month-long blood drive and that he also attended the Torrance Symphony fundraiser.

**10F.** Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso stated that he enjoyed the Torrance Symphony and encouraged Commissioners to attend Torrance Day at Dodger Stadium on June 16, 2007.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:35 p.m., Commissioner Gilbert moved to adjourn the meeting to August 8, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Orpe seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Co-Chairperson Ning so ordered.

Approved as Submitted August 8, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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